

IN THE CLAIMS

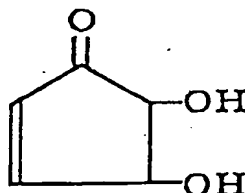
Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

10 2 Claim 6 (currently amended). A method for enhancing
production of growth factor selected ~~production~~, from the group
consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor,
epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, fibroblast
growth factor, brain-derived fibroblast growth factor, acidic
fibroblast growth factor, platelet-derived growth factor,
platelet basic protein, connective tissue-activating peptide,
insulin-like growth factor, colony stimulating factors,
erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, T cell growth factor,
interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-4, interleukin-5,
interleukin-7, interleukin-9, interleukin-11, interleukin-15,
cartilage-derived factor, cartilage-derived growth factor,
bone-derived growth factor, skeletal growth factor, endothelial
cell growth factor, endothelial cell-derived growth factor,
eye-derived growth factor, testis-derived growth factor,
Sertoli cell-derived growth factor, mammatropic factor, spinal
cord-derived growth factor, macrophage-derived growth factor,
recycled mesodermal growth factor, transforming growth factor-
 α , transforming growth factor- β , heparin-binding EGF-like
growth factor, amphiregulin, SDGF, betacellulin, epiregulin,
neuregulins 1, 2 and 3, vascular endothelial growth factor,
neurotrophin, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, NT-5, NT-6, NT-7, glial cell

line-derived neurotrophic factor, stem cell factor, midkine,
pleiotrophin, ephrin, angiopoietin, activin, [tumor necrosis
factor] and interferons, the method comprising

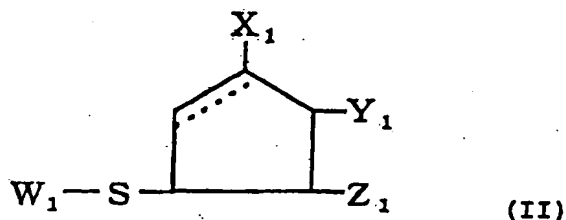
administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



(I);

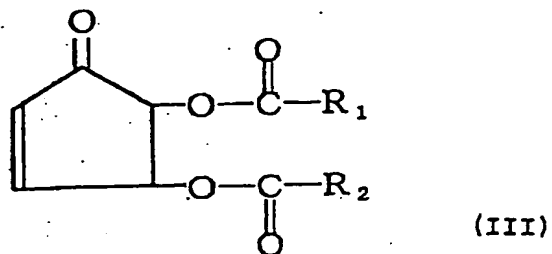
4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

a compound of formula (II):



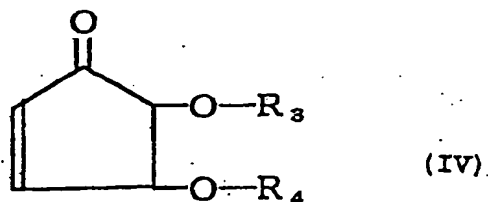
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X₁ is OH, Y₁ is =O and Z₁ is H; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X₁ is =O, Y₁ is OH and Z₁ is OH; W₁ is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III):



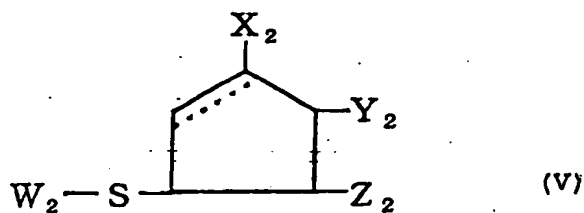
wherein R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



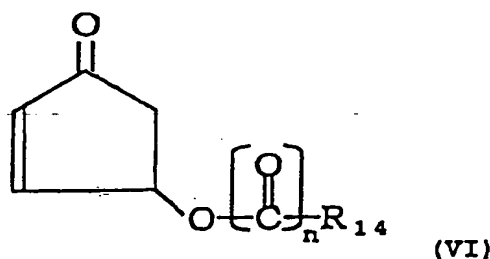
wherein R_3 and R_4 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R_3 and R_4 are not simultaneously H;

a compound of formula (V)



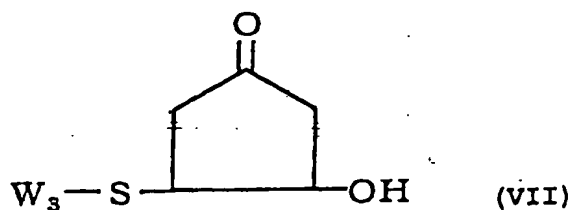
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X_2 is OR_5 , Y_2 is $=O$ and Z_2 is H ; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X_2 is $=O$, Y_2 is OR_6 and Z_2 is OR_7 ; R_5 is R_8 or $-(CO)-R_9$; R_6 is H , R_{10} or $-(CO)-R_{11}$; and R_8 is H , R_{12} or $-(CO)-R_{13}$ (wherein R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and R_9 , R_{11} and R_{13} may be H), provided that R_6 and R_7 are not simultaneously H ; W_2 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein R_{14} is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and n is 0 or 1, provided that if n is 0, R_{14} is not H ;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein W₃ is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10 µg/kg/day and less than 200 mg/kg/day.

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cont

Claim 7 (currently amended). The method according to claim 6, which is used for treating ~~or preventing~~ hepatitis, ~~severe hepatitis~~, cirrhosis, cholestasia in liver, chronic nephritis, pneumonia, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease, brain tumor, apex of brain, a degenerative disease associated with head injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, osteoporosis, and renal insufficiency.

Claim 8 (previously amended). The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.
